

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Year	Total service run	Right time start	Right time arrival at destination
1996-97	Nil	Nil	Nil
1997-98	Nil	Nil	Nil
1998-99	1407	702	698
1999-2000	1103	650	522

Maintenance of Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yavatmal Rail Line by Private Companies

2911. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yavatmal rail line is still maintained by private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are earning revenue from this line;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take the line under their control;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The three rail lines on Central Railway system still owned by a private company are:

(i) Murtajapur-Yavatmal;

(ii) Murtajapur-Achalpur; and

(iii) Pulgaon-Arvi.

The owning company is The Central Provinces Railways Company Ltd. These lines are maintained by the Central Railway under an agreement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) In terms of the agreement with the owning Company, the question of purchase of these lines by the Government is reviewed every ten years. Last such review was undertaken in 1996 when it was decided not to exercise the purchase option but to continue the existing arrangement, on financial considerations, as taking over of these lines would have entailed a heavy capital investment on upgradation and proper integration of these unremunerative lines with the main Indian Railways system.

Theft of Coal from Wagons

2912. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding theft of coal from wagons during the last two years, quality, quantity, year and zone-wise;

(b) the details of investigations; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Details of theft of coal from Railway wagons during the last two financial years i.e. 1998-99 & 1999-2000 (zone-wise) alongwith the quantity and value thereof is as under:—

Railways	Year	No. of cases	Value of coal (In Rs.)	Quantity of coal (In Kgs.)
Central	1998-99	46	34950	23700
	1999-2000	53	22741	4763
Eastern	1998-99	88	120903	120879
	1999-2000	39	67730	55300
Northern	1998-99	6	24406	21806
	1999-2000	9	89130	69790
N.E.	1998-99	2	500	250
	1999-2000	1	300	140